

Serial No. 10/519,150
Art Unit: 2859
Inventor: John Harold FLEXMAN et al.

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached drawing sheets replace the originally filed drawing sheets 1-11.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-32 were pending in this Application. In this Amendment, claims 1-32 have been cancelled. Claims 35-74 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 35-74 will be pending.

In the Office Action mailed November 2, 2006, the drawings corresponding to Figures 1-7 were objected to; the specification was objected to because the Abstract was not presented on a separate page; the specification was objected to because there was no brief description of Figures 10, 11, and 12 and Figure 12 was missing; claim 24 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph because claim 24 makes reference to a method while depending from an apparatus claim; and claims 1-23 and 25-32 were allowed.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter. With an eye toward this allowable subject matter, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-32 and add new claims 35-74. These new claims recite generally the same subject matter as claims 1-32, as explained in more detail under the following subheadings.

New Claims 35-74

Newly added claims 35-74 include independent claims 35 and 74, which recite subject matter similar to claim 1, as well as independent claim 58, which recites subject matter similar to independent claim 20. Accordingly, all of claims 35-74 are believed to be in allowable condition as presented.

New Claims 35 and 74

New claim 35 recites an apparatus that includes elements substantially similar to the elements recited in claim 1, save three. The latter three elements are recited individually in dependent claims 40, 41, and 42. New claim 74 recites, in means plus function language, an element corresponding to each element of claim 35.

New Claim 58

Claim 58 recites a method that includes elements substantially similar to each of the elements recited in claim 20, save three. The latter three elements are recited in respective claims 59, 60, and 61. Specifically, claim 58 recites eight elements that exactly correspond to respective elements recited in claim 20, and three additional elements that substantially correspond to respective elements recited in claim 20.

The remaining newly added claims 36-39 and 43-57; and 62-73 depend from respective independent claims 35; and 58. The dependent claims each recite subject matter substantially the same as that recited in previously presented dependent claims. Accordingly, none of the newly added claims in this Amendment are believed to recite subject matter that was not previously considered by the Examiner.

Amendments to the Figures

Replacement Figures 1-11 are submitted herewith and are believed to comply with all the requirements set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Amendments to the Specification

Short reference to Figures 10 and 11 has been included in the Amendments to the Specification above. In addition, on page 15, the reference to Figure 12 has been changed to

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“Figure 11” to correct a typographical error. Notably, there is no Figure 12 in the present Application.

Additionally, in the invention summary, new paragraphs have been added to the specification after the fourth paragraph on page 12. The added paragraphs are not believed to constitute any addition of new matter.

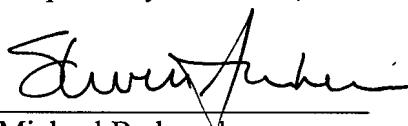
Applicants have also submitted the attached Abstract, which is now set forth on a separate page.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in this case are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MB/RR/ggb

Attachments: Abstract, Drawings

Customer No. 36183